



State Legislative Update

November/December 2021

This issue of the State Legislative Update includes select summaries of bills and regulations tracked by AVMA Division of State Advocacy in November and December. For more information, please contact Mr. Cody Corcelius, Policy Analyst, AVMA Division of State Advocacy (wcorcelius@avma.org).

Prohibitions on breed-specific bans

A bill in **Indiana** ([IN SB 18](#)) would forbid any law or regulation from preventing an individual from owning, possessing, keeping, harboring, transporting, purchasing, or selling a breed-specific dog. Meanwhile, a bill in **Missouri** ([MO HB 1657/HB 1588/SB 697](#)) would prohibit villages, towns, and cities from regulating dogs in a breed-specific manner.

Prohibitions on declawing of cats

Both the **District of Columbia** ([DCB24-0560](#)) and **Maryland** ([MD HB 22/MD SB 67](#)) will consider bills that would ban the declawing of cats.

Regulating pet insurance

In **New York**, [NY S 7587](#) would establish a framework for regulating the pet insurance industry. The bill would not allow a policy to be issued if the policy excludes a pre-existing condition, a congenital anomaly or disorder, a hereditary disorder or a chronic condition. Exclusions from coverage other than these would be permissible if disclosed. The AVMA provided feedback to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) Pet Insurance Working Group which has drafted a [pet insurance model law](#). That draft is currently awaiting final approval by the NAIC.

Veterinarian-Client-Patient-Relationship regulations

Proposed regulatory revisions in **Nevada** ([NV LCB File No. R***-21](#)) would align regulations with the recently enacted NV AB 200. This includes defining a “physical examination” to mean a physically proximate and hands-on, subjective and objective evaluation of an animal’s health status through the use of observation, auscultation, palpation, percussion, or manipulation. The **Nevada Veterinary Medical Association** successfully championed the enactment of NV AB 200 earlier this year. physically proximate

Veterinary Technicians

In **New Jersey**, [NJ A 6154](#) would reduce the number of credit hours for certain Animal Health Technicians from 18 hours to 12 hours and allow for an applicant with five years of experience in the field who does not meet all the educational requirements to substitute their experience for the totality of the education requirements. Also in **New Jersey**, [NJ S 4168](#) would regulate the practice of veterinary technicians. The bill would require applicants to submit satisfactory

proof that they are qualified and would allow veterinary technicians, under the responsible supervision of a licensed veterinarian, to perform any task for which they have been trained as delineated in the American Veterinary Medical Association’s essential tasks list for veterinary technician teaching programs.

Appropriations			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Florida	<u>FL HB 4755</u>	Would provide a \$3,000,000 appropriation for the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine.	Introduced 12/2/2021

Companion Animals			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Indiana	<u>IN SB 18</u>	Would forbid any law or regulation from preventing an individual from owning, possessing, keeping, harboring, transporting, purchasing, or selling a breed-specific dog.	Prefiled 12/20/2021
Missouri	<u>MO HB 1657/MO HB 1588/MO SB 697</u>	Would prohibit villages, towns, and cities from regulating dogs in a breed-specific manner.	Prefiled 12/1/2021
Missouri	<u>MO SB 979</u>	<p>Would require any public or private university or college that receives state funds to post on their website the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A list of active animal research projects and the total cost of and the number of and name of animal species; 2. A review of the project’s compliance with applicable federal and state law; 3. The total number of animals by species adopted out from research laboratories to animal shelters; 4. Current rosters for all Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees; and, 5. A detailed explanation of efforts by the college or university to refine, reduce, and replace the use of animals in research during the preceding year. 	Prefiled 12/15/2021
New York	<u>NY S 7587</u>	<p>Would establish a framework to regulate the pet insurance industry by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forbidding a policy to be issued if the policy excludes a pre-existing condition, a congenital anomaly or disorder, a hereditary disorder, or a chronic condition; and, 2. Require that a summary description of the method used to determine claim payments be provided; and, 	Introduced 12/10/2021

		3. Allow consumers to return the policy within 30 days if no claim has been paid out.	
Texas	<u>TX 22 TAC 573.52</u>	Would clarify that vital signs, including temperature, pulse, and respiration rate, if required for diagnosis or treatment (if treating a herd, flock, or individual animal where the vital sign(s) cannot be safely or practically obtained, then the reason for not obtaining the vital sign(s) should be noted instead) is required for complete medical records.	Proposed 12/24/2021

Education

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Oklahoma	<u>OK OAR Docket #21-768</u>	Would include a definition for Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE), another pathway for graduates of a non-American Veterinary Medical Association accredited school to become licensed in Oklahoma.	Published 11/1/2021
Oklahoma	<u>OK OAR Docket #21-769</u>	Would: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Include allowance of web-based material for the continuing education; 2. Require DEA registrants to have an additional one hour continuing education in opioids addiction/pain management; 3. Permit any Oklahoma State College of Veterinary Medicine continuing education to qualify; 4. Add PAVE as alternate pathway to technician licensure; and, 5. Include failure to report cruelty of animals as a violation under unprofessional conduct. 	Published 11/1/2021
Texas	<u>TX 22 TAC 573.65</u>	Would allow licensees the flexibility to earn continuing education hours in whatever format they prefer, whether that be live or virtual.	Finalized 11/7/2021

Euthanasia

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Michigan	<u>MI R 338.3501, et.al.</u>	Would require: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Managers and employees of animal control shelters, animal protection shelters, and Class B dealers who acquire, store, and administer tranquilizing or euthanizing drugs to receive additional training; and 2. That the training be approved by the state veterinarian who has determined that the training complies with the American Veterinary Medical Association's guidelines for euthanasia of animals. 	Finalized 11/4/2021

Pharmaceuticals Prescription Drug Monitoring Program			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Iowa	<u>IA ARC 6012C</u>	Would identify the minimum required elements of collaborative pharmacy practice agreements between pharmacists and Iowa-licensed practitioners, including veterinarians.	Published 11/3/2021

Scope of Practice			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
District of Columbia	<u>DCB24-0560</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prohibit nontherapeutic declawing of cats; 2. Modify the pure property disposition of a pet in a divorce so that the court may assign sole or joint ownership of a pet based upon the care and best interest of the animal; 3. Authorize animal control officers' emergency vehicles to use emergency lights and sirens when responding to life threatening animal-related emergencies; 4. Allow the Washington Humane Society to recover costs incurred when caring for and boarding seized animals during the pendency of criminal or other proceedings; 5. Ban specific tools used in training or facilitating dog fighting, i.e. breaking sticks, modified treadmills, fighting pits; and, 6. Require pet stores to sell only rescued life dogs, cats, or aquatic turtles. 	Introduced 12/21/2021
Maryland	<u>MD HB 22</u> <u>MD SB 67</u>	Would prohibit declawing procedures unless performed for a therapeutic purpose.	Prefiled 12/23/2021

Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship Telemedicine			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Nevada	<u>NV LCB File No. R***-21</u>	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Align the definition of VCPR with the statutory definition; 2. Define "physical examination" to mean a veterinarian is physically proximate and hands-on, subjective and objective evaluation of an animal's health status through the use of observation, auscultation, palpitation, percussion, or manipulation or, for a group of like animals, the veterinarian is physically proximate to the group of animals and has subjectively and objectively assessed a representative sample of the animals; 3. Make a change from annual to biennial renewal of licenses; 	Published 11/2/2021

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Define and set conditions for registration if internet and veterinary graduates awaiting licensure; and, 5. Update conditions for veterinary interns and graduates awaiting licensure. 	
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Veterinary Technicians Veterinary Assistants			
State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
New Jersey	<u>NJ A 6154</u>	<p>Would reduce the required number of credit hours for an Animal Health Technician from 18 hours to 12 hours and allow for an applicant with five years of experience in the field who does not meet all the educational requirements to substitute their experience for the totality of the education requirements.</p>	Introduced 12/6/2021
New Jersey	<u>NJ S 4168</u>	<p>Would regulate licensure of veterinary technicians by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Requiring satisfactory proof that the applicant is qualified to be a veterinary technician in addition to a fee; 2. Allowing veterinary technicians, under the responsible supervision of a licensed veterinarian, to perform any task for which the technician has been trained as delineated in the American Veterinary Medical Association’s essential tasks list for veterinary technician teaching programs; and 3. Requiring the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners to issue a license to a veterinary technician if the person passes the veterinary technician National Examination, or any other examination as required by the board; is at least 18 years of age; and has graduated from a college level program accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association. 	Introduced 11/22/2021